Measures for prevention of fire accidents

315. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the results of the in-vestigations made into the causes of fire accidents that took place during the last three years in the capital in multi-storeyed buildings, hotels and other public premises have been studied-; and

(b) whether any long-term and short term measures have been undertaken to prevent such fire accidents in future in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) In the year 1983 after the Gopala Tower's fire, the Fire Advisory Committee headed by Major General Singhal was given a list of about 220 multi-storey buildings in Delhi for the purpose of recommending fire safety measures in these buildings. The Committee has inspected the buildings and made recommendations on the mandatory fire prevention and fire safety precautions to be adhered to by the owners/occupiers of the multi-storey buildings. Thr se recommendations were also submitted to Government.

(b) The recommendations have been accepted. The owners/occupiers of the multi-storey buildings have been directed to comply with the specific steps to be taken for ensuring .fire safety of their respective buildings.

The Building Bye Laws, 1983 did not confer statutory authority for en-i/forcing compliance of its mandatory provisions. During the current session of Parliament, it is proposed to introduce legislation on fire prevention and fire safety which will em-power the Delhi Fire Services to take action against illegal occupation in buildings which continue to be insecure against fire.

Acquisition of Aircraft-Carrier for Indian-Navy

316. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations were carried on in recent weeks with some UK firms for the acquisition of an aircraft-carrier for the Indian Navy ;

(b) if so, what are the details and results thereof; and

(c) what type of aircraft-carrier is proposed to be acquired and its cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH:
(a) to (c) Negotiations were conducted with the Ministry of Defence, U.K. concerning the acquisition of the Aircraft Carrier HMS HERMES. A Sales Agreement has been signed with the U.K. Government on the 19th April 1986 for the acquisition of the ship after its dry docking and refit, together with spares, stores, and services at an estimated cost of £ 63 million.

Disturbances in Manipur and Tripura

317. SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent reports in a section of the press of disturbances caused in some areas of Manipur and Tripura by insurgents killing some people: and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to curb such activities of insurgente in Manipur and Tripura ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE lif THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY(SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) Yes.Sir.

(b) The Meitei organisations *viz.* People's Liberation Army (PLA), Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kang-leipak (PREPAK), Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and their allied bodies have been declared as 'Unlawful' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 vide Notification dated 18-10-1985. The State Governments have been requested to utilise provisions of the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act. 198510 curb the activities of extremists. Para-military forces have also been placed at the disposal of the State Governments.

Arms smuggling in Gujarat

318. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) wheffier Government are aware of the fact that foreign arms are being smuggled into Gujarat through coastal lines and border areas, and in other parts of India;

(b) what are the names of the smugglers and their foreign connections political or otherwise arrested during the last theree years; and

(c) what new steps are being worked out by Government to counteract the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be be laid on the Table of the House.

Empanelment of officers for promotion at the Centre

319. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that while some State cadres are heavily represented ir. the Central Ministries, there are others which have practically no representation at the senior levels, if so, what remedial measures are envisaged to remove this imbalance;

(b) whether the decision for empanelment of officers for promotion in Centre be joindy prepared by the Central Government and the State Governments is being implemented, if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what opportunity is given to those officers who are not included in the panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Each State Cadre of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) has a Central Deputation Reserve (CDR) representing 40% of the number of senior duty posts of that Cadre. Efforts are always made to ensure that the CDR of each State Cadre is fully utilized and adequate representation of each State Cadre at the different levels at the Centre is achieved. However, as each senior post at the Centre is filled with due regard to its job requirements and the qualifications/ experience of all eligible officers available at the time the vacancy arises, it is not always possible to achieve representation of each Cadre to the desired level. However, a fair and balanced representation for all Cadres is one of the objectives kept in mind while making postings.

As part of the on-going administrative reforms tke. feasibility of having a common assessment of suitability of IAS officers for senior posts both at the Centre and in the States is being examined. No decision has been taken so far.

(c) At present, there is a system of empanelment of IAS officers for appointment to posts at the level of Joint Secretary and above. IAS officers who are not empanelled for appointment to posts at a particular level at the Centre, cannot be appointed to such posts till they are empanelled. Such officers could however, continue in then own Cadres.